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LETTER DATED 29 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the following message from His Excellency Mr. Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, with the request that this document be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso VAN-DUNEM "MBINDA"
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 25 September 1993 from the President of the Republic of Angola addressed to the Secretary-General

It is a pleasure to address you regarding issues pertaining to the present situation in Angola and to provide the positions of the Angolan Government with respect to the so-called peace proposal of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

Therefore, I am enclosing with this letter our peace platform. In it you will note our firm intention to attempt to find a peaceful solution for the conflict under a framework of principles that will allow us to attain a solid and definitive peace in Angola.

We appreciate the positions that the Security Council has taken in relation to the Angolan conflict. We encourage it to continue this line of action with the necessary firmness, so that Mr. Jonas Savimbi will be convinced once and for all that his only option is to renounce war permanently and accept the universal principles of democracy, principles that rule the Republic of Angola.

I want to emphasize that the so-called peace proposal presented by UNITA could not constitute the basis of resumed peace negotiations. The proposal attempts to be, in appearance, a desire to terminate the war, with its reference to an "in situ" cease-fire. In reality, it represents a subtle denial of all the principles that should establish the basis for lasting solutions to the conflict, namely those that are included in the Bicesse Accords and the Security Council resolutions on Angola.

We would have liked to have been able to identify signs in UNITA's document that would reveal an attempt at a serious and well-intentioned proposal. Unfortunately, we see that UNITA is planning a dangerous manoeuvre by which it attempts to bypass its obligation to comply with the aforementioned criteria.

It cannot be stressed enough that all the political activity undertaken by UNITA on the eve of the Security Council meeting of 15 September 1993 was not done with a peaceful and immediate solution to the conflict in mind. UNITA only took this action to avoid having sanctions imposed. UNITA knew that if sanctions were imposed, it would be forced to negotiate under the framework defined in the Bicesse Accords and the resolutions of the Security Council.

As you may understand, the Angolan Government, the troika of international observers to the peace process and even the international community are once again facing another round of manoeuvres previously attempted by UNITA in similar circumstances, when they were subjected to strong international pressure.

This fact persuades us to proceed most carefully so that UNITA will not again take advantage of the benefit of the doubt that was being conceded to it. This allowed UNITA to maintain the inflexible and arrogant position it has taken since the meeting in Namibia, and carried to Addis Ababa and Abidjan.

I believe that you will recall that in the meetings for a search for a peaceful solution to the Angolan conflict, held in the above-mentioned locations, UNITA violated previous agreements. UNITA assumed positions that successively annulled previously reached obligations. At the same time that UNITA was taking advantage of the expectations for peace it created through the contacts that it maintained, it increased its illegal occupation of Angolan territory, as occurred in cities such as Uige, Negage, Soyo and Huambo.

I should point out that UNITA is repeating these same actions in the city of Kuito. With its "in situ" cease-fire proposed in Kuito, UNITA is able to move its soldiers into more advantageous positions, closing in on the defensive lines of the government forces defending the city.

We ask ourselves how long UNITA, with its strategy to divide the country, can maintain the farce of a cease-fire when the occupation of Kuito constitutes a fundamental component of its plans. In addition, it is worth noting that, within this strategy, UNITA is building a constituency convinced of the necessity of having United Nations forces monitor the "in situ" cease-fire. These forces would, in practice, then act as buffer forces and the "de facto" division of the country would be accomplished.

It is important to mention that UNITA only suspended its attacks on Kuito due to the fact that this city is now at the centre of attention of national and international public opinion.

Nevertheless, UNITA continues its offensives against other points in the country. In particular, the attacks that stand out are against Quilengues, Cuvelai, Que, Lobito, Ganda and Chongoroi, as well as ambushes against civilians and military and civilian vehicles across the country.

Within this context, we would like to be able to continue to count on your assistance in reinforcing the measures of the international community, in order to compel UNITA to exercise serious and constructive dialogue which would benefit the re-establishment of peace in Angola.

I ask you to please circulate this letter among all members of the Security Council.

Jose Eduardo DOS SANTOS
President of the Republic of Angola

Enclosure

Peace Plan of the Republic of Angola

"The desire for stability and peace in the Republic of Angola is an immediate necessity demanded by all Angolans."

This was the objective of the Bicesse Accords in which the Angolan people and the international community joined their efforts. These accords resulted in the holding of free and fair multi-party elections, and, consequently, the establishment of a new constitutional framework, recognized and accepted by all Member countries of the United Nations.

Taking into account the fact that UNITA's leader has consistently assumed a position that is not serious and has defied, not only the Angolan people, but also the demands of the international community, as stated in the relevant United Nations resolutions on Angola, namely, Security Council resolutions 804 (1993), 811 (1993), 823 (1993), 834 (1993) and 851 (1993), the Angolan Government considers that the foundation for the resolution of the post-electoral crisis unleashed by UNITA should be based on the following principles:

1. UNITA military forces should be withdrawn from territories that were illegally occupied after the multi-party elections held on 29 and 30 September 1992. This action should be followed by a cease-fire under the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council;

2. The unimpeded access for humanitarian aid and immediate evacuation of the wounded, ill and foreigners after the cease-fire, must take place;

3. Complete and unequivocal acceptance of the validity of the Bicesse Accords and the results of the elections held in September 1992;

4. Respect for the legislation produced by the instruments of sovereignty instituted as a result of the elections;

5. The Angolan Government reiterates its willingness to resume negotiations once the conditions for these negotiations have been established.

Luanda, 22 September 1993